

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] An automotive interior trim assembly, comprising:

a support; and

an ashtray coupled to said support and adapted to store one or more items, said ashtray comprising:

a compartment body defining a cavity adapted to store the one or more items and having an opening for gaining access to said cavity;

a cover coupled to said compartment body and moveable between an open position, wherein said cavity is accessible through said opening, and a closed position, wherein said cover overlies said opening; and

an electroluminescent lamp molded to one of said compartment body and said cover and adapted to illuminate said cavity when said cover is in the open position.

[Claim 2] The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent lamp is molded with the compartment body.

[Claim 3] The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent lamp is molded with the cover.

[Claim 4] The trim assembly of claim 1 further comprising:
an electrical circuit for energizing said electroluminescent lamp.

[Claim 5] The trim assembly of claim 4, wherein said electrical circuit comprises:

a power source;

a first electrical connector coupled to said compartment body and electrically coupled to said electroluminescent lamp; and

a second electrical connector coupled to said support and electrically coupled to said power source, wherein said first electrical connector is

electrically coupled to said second electrical connector when said ashtray is coupled to said support so as to energize said electroluminescent lamp.

[Claim 6] The trim assembly of claim 4, further comprising:

an electrical switch having a first position that energizes the electroluminescent lamp and a second position that de-energizes the electroluminescent lamp.

[Claim 7] The trim assembly of claim 6, wherein said electrical switch is in the first position when said cover is in the open position and said electrical switch is in the second position when said cover is in the closed position.

[Claim 8] An automotive interior trim assembly, comprising:

a support; and

an ashtray coupled to said support and adapted to store one or more items, said ashtray comprising:

a compartment body defining a cavity adapted to store the one or more items and having an opening for gaining access to said cavity, said compartment body including a first connecting member integrally formed therein; and

a cover including a second connecting member integrally formed therein, said first connecting member cooperating with said second connecting member to couple said cover to said compartment body, said cover being moveable between an open position, wherein said cavity is accessible through said opening, and a closed position, wherein said cover overlies said opening; and

an electroluminescent lamp coupled to one of said compartment body and said cover and adapted to illuminate said cavity when said cover is in the open position.

[Claim 9] A method of forming an automotive ashtray in a two-shot molding operation, comprising:

forming a first mold chamber;

molding a first element as one of a compartment body and a cover having a first connecting member by injecting into the first mold chamber a first curable material in a first shot of the molding operation;

forming a second mold chamber about a portion of the first connecting member;

molding a second element as the other one of the compartment body and the cover having a second connecting member by injecting into the second mold chamber a second curable material in a second shot of the molding operation, the second element being molded so that the first connecting member and the second connecting member are pivotally coupled together; and

inserting an electroluminescent lamp into one of the first and second mold chambers prior to forming a corresponding one of the first and second elements, respectively, the electroluminescent lamp being molded to one of the first and second elements during the molding operation.

[Claim 10] The method of claim 9, wherein molding the first element comprises molding the compartment body having the first connecting member and having the electroluminescent lamp molded thereto, and wherein molding the second element comprises molding the cover having the second connecting member.

[Claim 11] The method of claim 9, further comprising:

molding an electrical connector to the compartment body during the molding operation.